

## Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 030730Z FEB 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 759

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0066

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR KURDISH AUTONOMY

REF: BAGHDAD A-7 OF FEB 3

1. BAATH REGIME REMAINS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO GRANTING OF AUTONOMY TO KURDS ON MARCH 11, 1974 DESPITE FACT THAT CONCEPTS OF AUTONOMY BY TWO PARTIES ARE STILL FAR APART. KDP PROPOSAL OF MAY 1973 (BAGHDAD A27) WAS REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY BAATH AS TANTAMOUNT TO INDEPENDENCE. BAATH PROPSAL (REFAIRGRAM) WAS PRESENTED TO KDP IN LATE DECEMBER. ALTHOUGH BAATH PROPOSAL WAS AT GREAT DIVERGENCE WITH KDP PROPOSAL, KDP APPARENTLY AGREED TO USE IT AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. KDP DELEGATION HEADED BY SECRETARY HABIB MOHAMMAD KARIM ARRIVED IN BAGHDAD JAN 15 AND NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN NEXT DAY WITH HIGHER COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL FRONT (BAA H AND ICP).

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2. KDP IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURES TO ACCEPT BAATH CONCEPT

OF AUTONOMY AND JOIN NATIONAL FRONT. REGIME IS USING BOTH CARROT AND STICK. IT HAS ARMED COMMUNISTS IN SULAMANIYA PROVINCE AND REPORTEDLY CONTINUED MILITARY PRESSURE ON KURDISH VILLAGES THERE AND IN DISPUTED AREA AROUND KIRKUK. IT HAS WARNED KDP THAT IT IS NOT ONLY PARTY THAT REPRESENTS KURDS. AT SAME TIME, REGIME HAS STEPPED UP INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND PROMISED KURDS SHARE OF ANTICIPATED PROSPERITY. IT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY USING MONEY IN MORE DIRECT PAYMENTS AS WELL.

3. USSR AND ICP APPEAR TO BE SOLIDLY BEHIND REGIME ON THIS ISSUE. IN ADDITION TO RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARIES URGING KDP ACCEPTANCE NATIONAL FRONT AND AUTONOMY PROPOSAL (FBIS JAN 7, USSR EDITION PAGE F9), SECGEN OF SYRIAN CP KHALID BAKDASH, TUDEH PARTY, AND COMMUNIST PARTIES OF LEBANON AND JORDAN HAVE ALL SENT MESSAGES TO KDP AND BARZANI CRITICIZING KDP FOR FIGHTING AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND FAILING TO JOIN NATIONAL FRONT.

4. TURKISH AMBASSADOR CUHRUK TOLD ME MAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENCE IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE OVER BOUNDARIES AND CENSUS; CONTROL OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OVER CHIEF OF EXECUTIVE REGIONAL COUNCIL; AND RIGHT TO APPOINT LOCAL OFFICIALS INCLUDING POLICE.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO PARTIES CAN BE WORKED OUT IN TIME FOR FINAL AGREEMENT BY MARCH, BUT REGIME APPEARS TO BE IN INCREASINGLY STRONG POSITION. BOTH EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS BELIEVE MORE AND MORE ELEMENTS OF KDP ARE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR BAATH CONCEPT OF AUTONOMY (BAGHDAD 636 AND 689). BARZANI APPARENTLY REMAINS UNCONVINCED OF GOOD FAITH OF BAATH. OMINOUS ASPECT OF PRESENT SITUATION IS STRONG SOVIET AND ICP BACKING FOR KURDISH COMPROMISE SINCE THIS SUGGESTS THAT COMMUNISTS MAY BELIEVE THEY ARE--AS MEMBERS OF NATIONAL FRONT--NOW IN POSITION TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR INFLUENCE RATHER THAN STIR UP TROUBLE FOR BAATH. RECENT DECISION TO OPEN REGIONAL OFFICES OF NATIONAL FRONT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY GIVES ICP NEW VEHICLE FOR INFILTRATION OF BAATH.

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